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To the Chairman & Gentlemen of the
Lynton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen.

There have been during the year 1896
36 births 21 males and 15 females, making
a birthrate of 23.22 per 1000 inhabitants
this is below the average for the five
years 1892 to 1896 inclusive, the average
for these years being about 25 per 1000
but it is curious to note that a high
birthrate occurs in alternate years as
the following table will show

1892	Birthrate	=	20.64
1893	"	=	30.96
1894	"	=	22.58
1895	"	=	27.74
1896	"	=	23.22

There have been 28 deaths 13 males
& 15 females making a deathrate of

18.06 this being the highest deathrate for the past 5 years the average for that period being 14.05; there was however one death of a man not belonging to the district and leaving this out the deathrate would be reduced to 17.41.

Of these deaths 7 were persons above the age of 60 and 8 were infants under 1 year of age, the infant mortality being 222.2 per 1000 births a much higher infant mortality than in former years. There were 3 deaths from Zymotic diseases one from Whooping Cough in the early part of the year, one from Diarrhoea & one from Diphtheria.


The question of adopting the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was again brought up and negatived this is exceedingly disappointing as the cost to the Council would be infinitesimal;

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year by year the necessity for it becomes more and more apparent, this is the fifth year I have recommended the adoption of this Act and I hope we may in 1897 save ourselves from being the last District in Devonshire to embrace this much needed Sanitary reform.

There have been two cases of Cancer during the year these are the same cases that I mentioned in my report for 1895, both of them had a fatal termination & at the end of the year as far as I was able to ascertain the district was quite free from this disease.

Scavenging has been regularly performed, the removal of house refuse in Lynnton still occupies until midday, it would be better if this could be completed by 10 a.m. In Lynmouth as all the



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refuse has to be carted 3 miles this could not be done under the existing arrangements.

No new main sewers have been laid down during the year, the old sewers have been repaired where necessary, that in Blackmore's pass was in August found to be defective, the sewage in two places passing into dwelling houses; no time was lost in putting the sewer in perfect repair. I recommended that the drains of the Middleham cottages should be flushed by the Council's water, I am glad to note that the Surveyor has received instructions to carry out this work as soon as possible.

The flushing of the whole drainage system has been most satisfactory & on the whole there is every reason

to be satisfied with the drainage of the District, especially when a few ~~new~~ ventilating shafts which have been ordered have been fixed.

There has been during the year a marked advance for the better in the work done towards rendering the dwelling houses more sanitary, the Inspector reports ~~that~~ the following improvements - In 27 houses defective stone and other drains have been replaced by properly laid pipe drains. Eighteen new water closets have been erected some in place of defective pan closets or privies, others where there was no accommodation before. Twelve waste preventing cisterns have been fixed to flush that number of closets.

It is with great regret I am obliged

to report adversely with regard to the water supply; I wrote at length on this subject in my report for 1894 and again in that of 1895 but so far nothing has been done, I must once more urge on you the absolute need for this work being done at an early date, the year 1896 has been marked by a decided increase of Zymotic disease in the district and unless something is soon done I cannot but anticipate a still further increase of these cases, it is not that the water at the intake is impure, no finer or purer water could be wished for, but it is that the means of conveying it to the consumers and also the present filter beds & storage are totally inadequate for the requirements of the town. The recommendations contained in former

reports that still remain unattended to are as follow:- That Lynbridge should be supplied with filtered water - That new water tanks are required - That the Infectious Diseases Notification Act should be enforced - That an Isolation Hospital should be established - That means for disinfecting clothing bedding &c should be provided.

The only Sanitary improvement during the year, need of which has been mentioned in former reports has been the adoption of the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops order of 1895. This however will not come into force until Jan^y 1st 1897. No occasion has arisen for the enforcement of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890 or The Sale of Food & Drugs Act. There were no complaints & consequently

no proceeding taken under the Housing
of the Working Classes Act 1890.

There is no Isolation Hospital nor any means
of disinfection of bedding & clothing -
Rough plans for a small Isolation Hospital
were submitted to the Local Government
Board but were not approved of as
they only provided one male and one
female ward, the question being that
two kinds of infectious disease could not
be received at once, the Council could
not see their way to building on
the larger scale required by the Local
Government Board & consequently the
matter dropped.

The Slaughter houses and Bake houses
in the district have been periodically
inspected.

Twenty four cases of Zymotic disease
have come under observation during

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the year, 11 of these were Whooping Cough being the remains of the outbreak that occurred at the latter end of 1895, there were 5 cases of Diarrhoea occurring at various periods of the year & in different localities; two cases of measles both of which were visitors who were clearly infected before coming into the district, there was however no connection between the two cases, one being imported from Bristol the other from London, lastly there were six cases of Diphtheria which broke out at Lynmouth in the Autumn, the first case was clearly traceable to defective drains, the remaining cases were scattered over the district and could not be connected in any way with each other, by the end of the year the district had become free from all Zymotic diseases.

There were in all 3 deaths from Zymotic Diseases making the somewhat high Zymotic death rate of 1.9.

There was no action taken during the year under 15^a, 246^a, & 247^a sections of the Public Health Act 1878.

The Model Byelaws are enforced -

The plans of all buildings erected during the year have been submitted to me for approval.

The provisions of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act have not been published in the district & no means have been taken for disseminating information upon the elementary principles of Sanitation.

The Local Government Board have not required any special reports during the year.

I am Gentlemen

Yours faithfully

D. A. Hubbard
Medical Officer of Health.

